

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05170 291619Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----291622Z 027891 /42
O 291540Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3671

S E C R E T ROME 5170

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PFOR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 067973

1. I SAW PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AT NOON TODAY AND
PRESENTED TO HIM THE POSITION CONTAINED IN REFTEL,
POINTING OUT TO ANDREOTTI THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE
PRESIDENT GIVES TO THIS PROBLEM.

2. ANDREOTTI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO COMMENT AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIS
EXPERTS BEFORE FORMULATING A RESPONSE. HE NOTED,
HOWEVER, THAT ITALY IS VERY VULNERABLE ON THE ENERGY
ISSUE SINCE IT HAS NO INDIGENOUS SOURCE OF FUEL. HE
SAID THE BREEDER REACTOR IS OBVIOUSLY A MATTER OF SOME
INTEREST IN A COUNTRY LIKE ITALY BUT HE AGREED THERE
ARE POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARE
VERY IMPORTANT. IN PASSING, ANDREOTTI NOTED THAT TEN
YEARS AGO THE ITALIANS HAD TRIED TO CONSTRUCT A
NUCLEAR CARGO VESSEL, THE ENRICO FERMI BUT THAT THE
UNITED STATES HAD REFUSED TO SUPPLY FUEL. HE SAID
THE FRENCH WERE WILLING BUT THE PRICE WAS THEN TOO
HIGH. IN ANY CASE, ANDREOTTI PROMISED TO GIVE THIS

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MATTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND WOULD LET US HAVE
HIS COMMENTS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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